



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
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| BIL | TAJUK KERATAN AKHBAR | KEMENTERIAN / JABATAN / AGENSI |
|----------------|---|--|
| 1. 2. 3. | GOVT RAMPS UP HEATWAVE RESPONSE, NATION, NST – 3 OPERASI PEMBENIHAN AWAN DIMULAKAN DI LIMA LOKASI, NEGARA, KOSMO – 13 FLYING HIGH FOR FRESH WATER, NATION, THE STAR – 7 | KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN KETERJAMINAN MAKANAN |
| 5. | PAHANG TIPPED TO BECOME AGRI-FOOD HUB UNDER 13MP, NATIONAL, THE SUN – 4 | JABATAN PERTANIAN MALAYSIA (DOA) |
| 6. | KERJASAMA TIGA PENJURU PACU PERTUMBUHAN SEKTOR NANAS SABAH, NASIONAL, BERITA HARIAN – 7 | LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN NANAS MALAYSIA (LPNM) |
| 7. 8. | SEDIA RM30K PERTINGKAT AGROMAKANAN, BISNES, HARIAN METRO – 23 PERKASA SOSIOEKONOMI VETERAN ATM, BISNES, SINAR HARIAN – 22 | BANK PERTANIAN MALAYSIA (AGROBANK) |
| 9. | DASAR TASIK BUKIT MERAH TUMBUH RUMPUT, DALAM NEGERI, UTUSAN MALAYSIA – 11 | LAIN-LAIN |

UKK KPKM

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN KETERJAMINAN MAKANAN
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN KPKM, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

EMERGENCY MEASURES

GOVT RAMPS UP HEATWAVE RESPONSE

3,300 tube wells activated, cloud seeding in drought-hit areas, says Zahid

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THE government has intensified emergency measures to address extreme heat and the prolonged dry weather, activating over 3,300 tube wells nationwide and conducting cloud seeding over drought-hit areas.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the Fire and Rescue Department had been instructed to clean and operate the tube wells, especially in high-risk, fire-prone zones, as the Southwest Monsoon persists with lower rainfall and soaring temperatures.

"These wells were prepared earlier and have now been readied for operations," Zahid said after overseeing a cloud-seeding operation at the Subang Air Force Base yesterday.

"I've directed the fire department to carry out cleaning and fire prevention operations, particularly in areas prone to forest and peat fires when temperatures rise."

Zahid, who chairs the National Disaster Management Committee, said fast operational response was being coordinated through the fire department and district-level disaster management committees.

The monsoon season is expected to last until mid-October and authorities remain on high alert.

Zahid said the government had successfully carried out a cloud-seeding mission over the critically low Bukit Merah Dam in Gunung Semanggol, Perak, where heavy rainfall was reported just 45 minutes after the operation.

"The dam's water level had fallen to a critical 12.21 per cent, or 19.8 feet (6 metres), by July 31 due to prolonged dry conditions."

He said the dam was important for padi irrigation, domestic supply, fisheries and flood mitigation.

He said the Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) had identified suitable cloud formations inland from the Strait of Malacca, prompting the deployment of a Royal Malaysian Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft.

The aircraft released 6,000 litres of sodium chloride solution into the clouds, resulting in the desired rainfall.

"This is a scientifically guided operation. With God's will, it brought the outcome we hoped for. We expect it will help ease pressure on local agriculture and water supply."

Zahid voiced concern over rising temperatures nationwide, highlighting that several areas, including Bandar Baharu in Kedah, Selama in Perak, Temerloh in Pahang, Limbang in Sarawak, and Tenom and Pitas in Sabah, had recorded extreme heat for three consecutive days.

MetMalaysia and the Drainage and Irrigation Department were monitoring other reservoir zones and potential hotspots for further intervention, he said.

"Our focus is on areas critical for domestic, agricultural and industrial water needs. We will not wait for formal requests. Action will be taken when ground monitoring shows water levels have dropped below 30 per cent."

Zahid said the Health Ministry would issue public advisories to limit heat exposure, especially for schoolchildren.

District education offices have been instructed to reschedule outdoor activities where necessary.

Page 1 pic: Sodium chloride solution being released into the clouds above Bukit Merah Dam in Gunung Semanggol, Perak, yesterday.

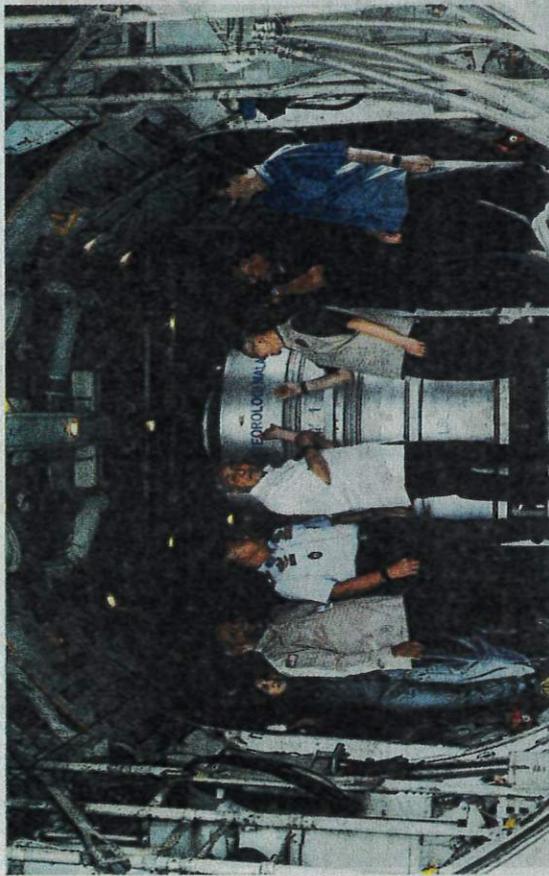
Operasi pembenihan awan dimulakan di lima lokasi

SHAH ALAM - Agensi Pengu- rusan Bencana Negara (Madma) melaksanakan Operasi Pem- benihan Awan (OPA) di Empan- gan Bukit Merah, Perak bermula semalam sebagai usaha untuk meningkatkan taburan hujan di kawasan tadahan empangan berkenaan.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Ha- mid berkata, operasi tersebut dilaksanakan bersama Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMa- laysia), dan Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM) susulan keada- an semasa di empangan terse- but yang kini berada pada tahap amat kritikal.

Bellau yang juga Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Ben- cana Negara berkata, keadaan itu berlaku berikutan cuaca panas berpanjangan dan ketiadaan hu- jan yang ketara sejak bermulanya Monsun Barat Daya.

"Pada 31 Julai 2025, paras takungan air di empangan ini mencatatkan hanya 12.2 peratus



AHMAD Zahid (empat dari kiri) ketika memantau operasi pembenihan awan di Pangkalan Udara Subang semalam. - SHIDDIEQIN ZON

empangan Bukit Merah, Perak di Lapangan Terbang TUDM Su- bang, di sini semalam.

Ahmad Zahid berkata, kega- galan menangani krisis itu den- gan segera boleh memberi kesan berantai terhadap bekalan ma- kanaan, pendapatan rakyat luar bandar serta kestabilan ekosis- tem setempat.

"Lebih membimbangkan, keadaan cuaca panas dan pem- bakaran hutan juga menyebab- kan peningkatan jerebu di be- berapa kawasan," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, sebanyak lima lokasi di negara telah men- catatkan suhu terpanas selama tiga hari berturut-turut sehingga Sabtu.

Kawasan itu adalah Bandar Baharu (Kedah), Selama (Perak), Temerloh (Pahang), Limbang (Sarawak) dan Tenom serta Pitas (Sabah).

Bellau berkata, kepanasan yang luar biasa ialah apabila suhu di sesuatu kawasan itu mencapai 35 hingga 37 darjah Celsius.

atau 19.80 kaki. "Empangan Bukit Merah bu- kan sekadar sumber air domes- tik untuk ribuan penduduk, ia juga menyokong pengairan sawah padi, perikanan, pelan- baran dan fungsi mitigasi banjir." katanya ketika sidang akh- bar Operasi Pembenihan Awan

Flying high for fresh water

Cloud seeding operation creates rain to save critically low Perak dam

By CHARLES RAMENDRAN
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PETALING JAYA: A cloud seeding exercise has helped increase the critically low water level at the Bukit Merah Dam in Semanggol, Perak, caused by the dry spell, says Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The Deputy Prime Minister said a downpour occurred just 45 minutes after 6,000 litres of salt solution was sprayed into cumulus clouds to generate rain at noon yesterday.

He said the operation was conducted by a Royal Malaysian Air Force (TUDM) C-130 Hercules aircraft, which took off from its base in Subang at about 11.30am.

Ahmad Zahid, who also joined the flight with the TUDM crew, said the dam's water level stood at about 6m in depth, a mere 12.21% of its capacity.

"The dam level was below 30% of its minimum capacity.

"According to the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia), there were cumulus clouds over the Straits of Malacca moving from the west towards the mainland.

"The clouds were sprayed with the solution at altitudes of between 5,000 and 8,000 feet. I was informed during the return flight to Subang that precipitation occurred 45 minutes later.

"With this scientific method and the help of God, we hope the water level issue will be overcome," he said to reporters after the cloud seeding operation yesterday.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also the National Disaster Management



Drought fighter: Ahmad Zahid aboard the C-130 Hercules before taking off from the TUDM Subang Air Base for cloud seeding operations. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

(Nadma) committee chairman, said the dam is not only a water source for households, but also provides water to padi plantations and fish farms.

He said failing to promptly address the water shortage could have a ripple effect that may affect food supply, income of rural folk and the stability of the local ecosystem.

Ahmad Zahid revealed that the Perak government and the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry had sought the assistance of Nadma in mid-July to

conduct cloud seeding operation to increase the low water level at the dam.

He also said the districts of Bandar Baharu (Kedah), Selama (Perak), Temerloh (Pahang) and Limbang (Sarawak) as well as Tenom and Pitas, both in Sabah, had recorded high temperatures of between 35°C and 37°C for three consecutive days since Aug 1.

"We will monitor these areas and see if there is a need for cloud seeding to be carried out there.

"However, our priority is to ensure there is adequate supply at water dams," he said.

Ahmad Zahid noted that with the southwest monsoon season, rainfall is scarce and the climate is hot, adding that the dry spell is expected to end in mid-October.

"In the meantime, the Fire and Rescue Department has been directed to prepare the 3,000 tube wells we have to mitigate fires, especially in peat-soil grounds and forests.

"The Health Ministry has also advised outdoor activities, espe-

cially among children, to be postponed during this season."

Also present were TUDM chief of flight operations Lt Jen Datuk Masro Kaliwon, Nadma director-general Datuk Abdul Halim Hamzah and MetMalaysia deputy director-general Zunaidi Mat.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



Pahang tipped to become agri-food hub under 13MP

KUANTAN: Pahang is poised to become a significant national agri-food hub under the proposed East Coast Food Production Hub announced in the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP), leveraging its strategic location and potential to drive growth in the sector.

East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) CEO Datuk Baidzawi Che Mat said Pahang, which covers more than half of the East Coast, is ideally positioned to spearhead national food production initiatives.

He said the development of the hub would attract domestic and foreign investments, create job opportunities and strengthen the agri-food value chain from farm to market.

"As an example, the Netherlands, a country roughly the size of Pahang, has become the world's second-largest agricultural exporter. With strategic planning and sustainable approaches, Pahang has the potential to

become Malaysia's leading agri-food hub," he told Bernama recently.

Baidzawi said the hub would feature Collection, Processing and Packaging Centres (CPPC), which would provide direct benefits to local farmers, in line with the aspirations of the National Agro-Food Policy 2.0.

He added that the CPPC's proximity to the East Coast Rail Link would speed up delivery of agricultural produce to domestic and international markets, boosting competitiveness and farmers' income.

"With increased local food production and a focus on high-value crops such as durian, the hub will also help reduce the country's dependence on food imports," he said.

Baidzawi noted that flood mitigation projects under 13MP would enable agri-food projects to be developed on previously flood-prone land.

The ECERDC is collaborating with the

Malaysian Space Agency to map flood-prone areas and identify flood-free agricultural zones using data-driven and satellite technology, supporting safer and more resilient food production zones.

Meanwhile, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technology Faculty Prof Dr Mohd Faizal Jamlos recommended the use of geospatial technology such as drones to produce Digital Elevation Models or Digital Terrain Models for precision mapping of agricultural land.

"These models provide valuable information to differentiate between high and low-lying areas easily."

"The university has the technology and capability to carry out the data acquisition and processing required," he said.

Mohd Faizal noted that the food production

hub represents a strategic government investment to stimulate the local economy and ensure national food security.

Among the proposed incentives are competitive Temporary Occupation Licences, access to basic infrastructure such as electricity, water and alternative energy sources, as well as relevant advisory services on market demand and crop suitability.

He added that tax incentives, soft loans and grants, in cash or kind, could further encourage private sector participation.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in tabling 13MP last Thursday, announced that the East Coast states of Kelantan, Pahang and Terengganu would be developed through the creation of integrated, competitive national food production hubs, aimed at generating new economic opportunities, particularly for rural communities.

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
| 5/8/2025 | BERITA HARIAN | NASIONAL | 7 |

Kerjasama tiga penjuror pacu pertumbuhan sektor nanas Sabah

Langkah strategik perkukuh kedudukan Malaysia sebagai pengeluar nanas berdaya saing peringkat global

Kota Kinabalu: Industri nanas Sabah kini memasuki dimensi baharu dengan termeterainya Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) dan Perjanjian Kerjasama yang membuka laluan kepada pembangunan lebih mampan dan berteknologi tinggi di negeri itu.

MoU antara Lembaga Perindustrian Nanas Malaysia (LPNM), Lembaga Kemajuan Tanah Negeri Sabah (SLDB) dan Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang (LPP), itu dimeterai bersempena Hari Peladang, Penternak dan Nelayan Kebangsaan (HPPNK) 2025.

Majlis menandatangani MoU berlangsung di Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC), baru-baru ini.

Ia disaksikan Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu serta timbalannya, Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup.

Pengerusi LPNM, Sheikh Umar Bagharib Ali, berkata kerjasama tiga penjuror ini, langkah strategik yang bakal memacu pertumbuhan sektor nanas di Sabah, seterusnya memperkukuh kedudukan Malaysia sebagai pengeluar nanas berdaya saing pada peringkat global.

Menurutnya, Sabah kini muncul sebagai negeri berpotensi tinggi dalam pengembangan industri nanas negara. Ia berdasarkan keluasan tanah sesuai, iklim tropika stabil serta sokongan kerajaan negeri yang progresif.

"Setakat ini, Sabah mencatatkan keluasan penanaman nanas sebanyak 1,370 hektar, menjadikannya negeri keempat terbesar selepas Johor, Sarawak dan Pahang.

"Dengan pelaburan dan kepakaran lebih tersusun, industri ini dijangka memberi impak besar kepada sekuriti makanan negara, ekonomi luar bandar, serta pasaran eksport," katanya dalam kenyataan.

Empat fokus utama kerjasama itu iaitu:

- Pembangunan tanah



Mohamad bersama Arthur dan Sheikh Umar menyaksikan MoU antara LPNM, SLDB dan LPP bersempena Hari Peladang, Penternak dan Nelayan Kebangsaan 2025 di Sabah International Convention Centre, baru-baru ini.

Tanah milik SLDB akan dimanfaatkan untuk projek tanaman nanas berskala komersial, sejajar dengan dasar pertanian Sabah.

- Pembangunan teknologi dan varieti baharu

LPNM akan memperkenalkan varieti berkualiti tinggi serta teknologi moden bagi memenuhi permintaan tempatan dan global.

- Pemindahan ilmu dan teknologi

Latihan dan demonstrasi teknologi akan dilaksana bersama LPP untuk memperkasa usaha-

wan tani dan peladang Sabah.

- Pengukuhan ekosistem industri

Modul pengeluaran dan pemasaran akan dibangunkan bagi memastikan kesinambungan rantaian nilai dan memperluas akses pasaran.

"Kerjasama ini membuktikan komitmen kami untuk membina industri nanas yang lebih berstruktur dan mampan," kata Sheikh Umar.

Beliau turut menegaskan, Sabah berpotensi menjadi hab pengeluaran dan eksport nanas utama negara, terutama ke pasaran

Asia Timur dan Asia Barat.

MoU berkuat kuasa 3 tahun

Pada masa sama, SLDB dan LPP menyatakan komitmen untuk menyumbang menerusi tanah, jaringan peladang, kepakaran teknikal dan logistik.

Sheikh Umar berkata, MoU ini akan berkuat kuasa selama tiga tahun dan boleh diperbaharui atas persetujuan bersama.

Katanya, pelaksanaan akan diselaraskan oleh wakil setiap agensi yang bertanggungjawab memantau kemajuan dan menilai impak kerjasama ini.



LEMBAGA PERINDUSTRIAN NANAS MALAYSIA



| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|----------|--------------|---------|------------|
| 5/8/2025 | HARIAN METRO | BISNES | 23 |

Sedia RM30j pertingkat agromakanan

Kuala Lumpur: Agrobank melancarkan Program Modernisasi Rantaian Nilai Agromakanan (PMRNA) 2025, inisiatif pembiayaan strategik dengan peruntukan sebanyak RM30 juta bertujuan untuk memperkasakan perusahaan mikro, kecil dan sederhana (PMKS) dalam sektor agromakanan melalui pemerkasaan penggunaan agroteknologi.

Program di bawah Inisiatif Belanjawan 2025 ini merupakan usaha Agrobank dalam menyokong agenda keterjaminan makanan negara dengan meningkatkan kecekapan pengeluaran hasil pertanian menerusi penggunaan teknologi moden seperti Internet Benda (IoT), Kecerdasan Buatan (AI), teknologi hijau, mekanisasi dan automasi, serta analisis data raya.

Presiden/Ketua Pegawai



MAJLIS Penyerahan Dana Program Modernisasi Rantaian Nilai Agromakanan yang diserahkan Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu (dua dari kiri) kepada Ketua Pegawai Pembangunan Agrobank, Ahmad Ariff Abu Bakar (dua dari kanan).

Eksekutif Kumpulan Agrobank Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin berkata, PMRNA 2025 adalah cerminan komitmen Agrobank dalam mendukung aspirasi nasional bagi memperkukuh rantaian ni-

laid agromakanan.

“Melalui program ini, kami bukan sahaja menyediakan pembiayaan yang kompetitif, malah turut menyokong pembangunan kapasiti teknologi dalam kalangan usahawan komu-

ni tani. “Di bawah program ini pembiayaan sehingga RM juta menerusi dua produk utama Agrobank iaitu Pembiayaan Berjangka-i dan Pembiayaan Modal Kerja-disediakan dengan margin pembiayaan sehingga 10 peratus merangkumi koagroteknologi, infrastruktur sokongan dan modal kerja,” katanya.

Menurutnya, selain itu pembiayaan ini ditawarkan dengan kadar keuntungan serendah 3.0 peratus setahun melalui konsep patuh Syariah Tawarruq.

“Keutamaan diberikan kepada syarikat Bumiputera, dengan syarat pemilik 51 peratus rakyat Malaysia dan perniagaan berdaftar yang mematuhi garis panduan syariah sert bebas daripada sebarang tindakan undang-undang katanya.

Perkasa sosioekonomi veteran ATM

Agrobank, JHEV ATM
lancar Ladang Kontrak
Agro Defence

Oleh NURUL NABILA AHMAD
HALIMY
SHAH ALAM

Agrobank memperkenalkan Program Ladang Kontrak Agro Defence bagi membuka peluang kepada veteran Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM) men- ceburi bidang pertanian dan pen- ternakan secara komersial.

Presiden yang juga Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan Agrobank, Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin berkata, inisiatif itu memberi keutamaan kepada penanaman nenas premium varieti MD2 dan penternakan ayam daging serta kampung organik sem- pena sambutan Hari Peladang, Penternak dan Nelayan Kebangsaan (HPPNK) 2025.

Menurutnya, setiap peserta layak

menerima kemudahan pembiayaan se- hingga RM500,000 bagi menampung kos operasi ladang.

"Program dijangka melibatkan hampir 20 peserta yang akan diselia sepenuhnya" oleh Aqina Group of Companies (Aqina).

"Kerjasama antara Jabatan Hal Ehwal Veteran ATM (JHEV ATM) dan Aqina bukan sahaja meningkatkan keterjaminan bekalan hasil pertanian serta ternakan negara, malah menyediakan sumber per- dapatan lebih stabil kepada veteran ATM," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Tambah beliau, usaha tersebut sejajar dengan mandat Agrobank memperkukuh agenda keterjaminan makanan negara dan memajukan komuniti tani.

Jelas beliau, program tersebut me- rupakan inisiatif Agrobank bagi membantu peserta meningkatkan taraf hidup, khususnya golongan pesara.

"Ia dijangka dilaksanakan dalam tem- poh lima hingga tujuh tahun, bermula se- lepas perjanjian dimeterai," katanya.

Menurut Tengku Ahmad Badli, peserta yang berminat perlu melalui proses saringan dan temu duga oleh pihak Aqina serta memenuhi kriteria ditetapkan.

Ujar beliau, antara syarat kelayakan ialah berumur antara 21 hingga 60 tahun,



Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah (kiri) menyerahkan replika cek Program Ladang Kontrak Agro Defence kepada Ketua Pengarah JHEV ATM, Mejar Jeneral Datuk Semaon Marzuki (kanan), disaksikan oleh Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu (tengah).

bebas daripada tindakan undang-undang dan tidak disenaraihitamkan oleh institu- si kewangan.

"Melalui pelaksanaan program ini, Agrobank bersama rakan strategik yakin dapat memperkukuh rantaian nilai agromakanan negara, di samping membantu golongan sasaran meningkat- kan taraf sosioekonomi secara mam- pan dan holistik," katanya.

| TARIKH | MEDIA | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 5/8/2025 | UTUSAN MALAYSIA | DALAM NEGERI | 11 |



KEADAAN dasar Tasik Bukit Merah yang ditumbuhi rumput berikutan air tasik surut akibat cuaca panas ketika tinjauan di Bagan Serai, Perak kelmarin. - UTUSAN/WAT KAMAL ABAS

Dasar Tasik Bukit Merah tumbuh rumput

Oleh WAT KAMAL ABAS
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BAGAN SERAI: Tasik Bukit Merah di sini yang surut kini ditumbuhi rumput selain terdapat rekahan pada tanah dasar tasik tersebut.

Tinjauan mendapati tanah dasar tasik yang ditumbuhi rumput melibatkan kawasan dari tebing Bukit Merah Lake-town Resort (BMLR) hingga ke tengah tasik menyebabkan kawasan itu kelihatan seperti taman yang menghijau.

Tanah dasar tasik berdekatan resort juga kelihatan merekah dan ada sebahagiannya menjadi keras hingga boleh dipijak untuk berjalan.

Keadaan itu menyebabkan ada pengunjung yang turun hingga ke dasar tasik bagi tujuan berswafoto bersama keluarga mereka.

Seorang remaja, Qaisara Wafa Zara Shima Kamal, 13, yang datang bersama keluarganya dari berkata, pemandangan unik itu memberi pengalaman berbeza berbanding kunjungannya sebelum ini.

“Memang luar biasa sebab dasar tasik yang kering ini penuh dengan rumput hijau malah ada juga cengkerang siput dan lokan bertaburan di celah-celah rumput.

“Perubahan landskap ini turut menjadikan kawasan ini lokasi menarik untuk bergam-

bar apatah lagi dengan cuaca panas dan latar belakang unik seperti tunggul kayu, batu-batu besar serta bekas aliran air tasik yang jelas kelihatan.

“Ramai kawan-kawan sekolah saya sudah datang dan bergambar di sini. Semua tempat nampak cantik dengan suasana tasik yang kering ni,” katanya ketika ditemui kelmarin.

Utusan Malaysia sebelum ini melaporkan tasik seluas 40⁺ kilometer persegi itu surut sejak pada pertengahan Jun lalu sehingga Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) Daerah Kerian terpaksa menghentikan bekalan air ke sawah apabila paras bacaan air menyusut di bawah paras 20 kaki.